

REMARKS

Claims 1-35 are pending in this application. Claims 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 16-18 and 31-35 were withdrawn from consideration by the Examiner pursuant to a requirement for restriction. Claims 1-3, 5, 6, 8, 10, 13-15, 29 and 30 stand rejected. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Examiner contends that the amendment filed December 7, 2004 is non-responsive because the amended independent claims 1, 10 and 29 all recite "a tacky upper exposed surface associated with said sloping surfaces" which has not been disclosed for the specific species/embodiment set forth by FIGs. 32A and 32B.

The Applicant respectfully disagrees. Paragraph 191, for example, in connection with the mat support and drainage structure of elected FIG. 32A, explicitly refers to "a mat placed thereon." The specification is replete with descriptions of mats having a tacky upper exposed surface. Clearly, placing such a mat on the claimed support and drainage structure causes a tacky upper exposed surface to be associated with the claimed support and drainage structure. The Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the amendment filed December 7, 2004 is fully responsive, and requests favorable consideration thereof.

In light of the above discussion, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in all aspects in allowable condition, and earnestly solicits early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.


The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (202) 220-4323 to discuss any matter concerning this application. The Office is authorized to charge any fees related to this communication to Deposit Account No. 11-0600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

JAN. 24, 2005

By:


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